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Subject: SCSU

1. Why would you like to serve on the Board? SCSU is an invaluable asset for SC. It's legacy and it's future are important. I have a long-standing and deep interest in education on all levels, and I have some immediate experience in higher ed as a former faculty member. I also have been privileged to serve on the State Board of Education. I would like to bring that interest and experience to SCSU and help SCSU continue its journey back to the strong, healthy and sustainable status it needs to serve SC as it has for generations.
2. What strengths will you bring to the Board? I have served on a college faculty, and I have served on a college board of visitors, and that gives me specific experience and insight that would serve me well in this position. My experience in state government also allows me particular insight into the recent history of SCSU and the context of the recent decisions of the General Assembly. My service on other K-12 education boards provides me with experience in the kind of decision making needed in this situation.
3. What areas can SCSU improve? SCSU must continue to remedy its financial difficulties, and it must continue to emphasize the importance of core educational expenditures over administrative expenditures. SCSU needs to emphasize first-year freshman retention and improve that rate to the average of senior institutions. SCSU also must lower its loan-default rate which sits above both the SC and US averages. SCSU must restore the faith and trust of all SC, taxpayers, parents, students and lawmakers.
4. How can SCSU attract more students? Is the current enrollment on track, and why? SCSU must continue to make itself affordable and accessible for SC students. It must raise its profile as a provider of relevant post-secondary education, and it must explore opportunities to partner with both high schools and other higher ed institutions in order to expand the range of opportunities it can make available to students. Total enrollment has dipped of late but applications are up as are first-time freshmen--both encouraging signs. That trend must continue while not sacrificing quality for quantity. The business model for higher education is evolving, and the schools that can offer innovative ways for students to receive an education are going to be best positioned for the future. This can include online, partnerships with other 4-years, partnerships with tech colleges and partnerships with high schools, and SCSU should investigate them all.
5. Ideal ratio of in-state/out-state? I believe that all of our institutions, especially the 4-year schools, must lean heavily toward education SC students. Seventy percent in-state is the optimal minimum.
6. Visited campus? Not yet, but a current trustee will arrange a visit soon.
7. Biggest strength of SCSU? SCSU has a unique opportunity to start fresh with a blank slate of how it will serve its students. SCSU is emerging from its fiscal difficulty, and it enjoys new leadership. SCSU can remodel itself as a 21st Century institution with programs that truly enable its students to be successful in modern SC. SCSU also enjoys a passionate alumni base that will support it as it moves forward.
8. Biggest weakness? The biggest weakness is the obvious fiscal and reputational fragility. Skepticism among parents, students, taxpayers and legislators will hamper SCSU until it proves itself fully recovered. It will take a few more years of success to diminish the doubt.
9. Current tuition/reasonable? \$10,420. This needs to be lower. Offering the most financially accessible option to SC parents will help SCSU rebuild more quickly .
10. In-state tuition for non-SCs? Only very rarely and in very special circumstances.
11. Role of CHE? CHE is statutorily charged with the "responsibility for a coordinated, efficient, and responsive higher education system in this State". CHE is given specific functions of oversight and approval, such as programs and budgets. CHE is tasked with determining the viability of projects and requests. It should be respected in that role, or the Assembly should alter its role.

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